

# The Ropemakers Strathspev

(Strathspey for four couple set; 4 x 40 bars)

## Bars

- 1 - 4 1<sup>st</sup> man turns 3<sup>rd</sup> woman 1½ times with both hands WHILST 2<sup>nd</sup> man turns 4<sup>th</sup> woman similarly.
- 5 - 8 1<sup>st</sup> woman turns 3<sup>rd</sup> man 1½ times with both hands WHILST 2<sup>nd</sup> woman turns 4<sup>th</sup> man similarly.
- 9 - 16 All are now on opposite sides in order 3 - 4 - 1 - 2.  
1<sup>st</sup> couple and 2<sup>nd</sup> couple (and 3<sup>rd</sup> couple & 4<sup>th</sup> couple) dance right hands across 1½ times to finish on own side in order 4 - 3 - 2 - 1. All set in side lines advancing to meet in centre.
- 17 - 24 All four couples dance allemande but on last two bars, while other dancers retire, 1<sup>st</sup> couple turn right hand, moving down slightly, to finish shoulder to shoulder facing 2<sup>nd</sup> couple ready for ...
- 25 - 32 1<sup>st</sup> couple dance the *Spurtle* with 2<sup>nd</sup> couple who finish at top and then with 3<sup>rd</sup> couple who finish in 2<sup>nd</sup> position.
- 33 - 36 Finish *Spurtle* so 1<sup>st</sup> couple finish in 4<sup>th</sup> position and 4<sup>th</sup> couple in 3<sup>rd</sup> position. All are on opposite side in progressed positions, order 2 - 3 - 4 - 1.
- 37 - 40 All turn partner by the right hand ¾ to form line up and down set, then all petronella turn to own sides. Finish 2 - 3 - 4 - 1.

Repeat with a new top couple.

Suggested Music: 'The Winding Nith'

## Notes:

- Bars 1 - 8 represent *stretching the flax.*
- Bars 9 - 16 represent *spinning the flax into cord.*
- Bars 17 - 24 represent *walking the ropes (setting up the cord on a ropewalk).*
- Bars 25 - 36 represent *twisting the cords into ropes/hawsers.*
- Bars 37 - 40 represent *the finished rope/hawser.*

Devised by Sarah Ashby (formerly Prone) to commemorate the rope-making tradition in the town of Bridport, Dorset.